

Abstract

A hinge assembly is provided for hinging a hood on a utility vehicle body so as to enable the hood to open upwardly and backwardly from the front end of the utility vehicle. A bracket made from steel is secured adhesively to an underside of the hood, which is made from a polymeric material, near a back end of the hood. A double-rocker, four-link mechanism includes a lower, fixed link having two opposite ends, each defined by a bracket mounted to the utility vehicle body, an upper, coupler link defined by a portion of the hood-mounted bracket and having two opposite ends, a comparatively longer, front link, and a comparatively shorter, back link. Each of the front and back links, which are rocker links, has a lower end connected pivotally to one of the opposite ends of the fixed link and an upper end connected pivotally to one of the opposite ends of the coupler link. The front, back, and coupler links are displaceable so that the upper end of the back link is movable toward and away from the lower end of the front link, between positions on opposite sides of a center line drawn between the lower end of the back link and the other end of the coupler link. An extensible-retractable spring connected between the rocker links biases the upper end of the back link toward the lower end of the front link. As measured along the front and back links respectively, a front end of the spring is comparatively closer to the lower end of the front link and a back end of the spring is comparatively farther from the lower end of the back link.